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THE CINEMATHEQUE

The regular Bay Area showcase for personal and avant-garde films.

1980 **Shows on Thursdays and Sundays at 8:00 PM at the San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St., S.F.** **Donation $2.50** **Free coffee.** **For information call 586-8486.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

An Evening With Bermuda Schwartz

Also: THE POINTLESS SISTERS
MATT FINISH & THE PHOTONES

"Never before has an artist of my calibre played so many bit parts." Ergo, an Evening with Bermuda Schwartz featuring highlights of her film career. Included will be: the classic and rarely shown, Tripple A production of ROCKET TO MARS, Bermuda's most acclaimed, and only leading role to date: Ernie (HARDWARE WARS & PORKLIPS NOW) Fosselius' Durocs Movie which has been touted as the best record promo film ever made; LIVING IN THE WORLD by Joe Gibbons, celebrated San Francisco super-8 filmmaker, which Bermuda describes as a "metaphysical tribute to George & Gracie", plus a few surprises. Add to this a live performance by the legendary Pointless Sisters and Bermuda's current musical group, Matt Finish & the Photones and what have you got? A lively evening of selected Schwartz guaranteed to be an upper, with some of San Francisco's most lovable performers.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Roots of the Avant Garde

This program consists of four films from the 20's which have had a lasting influence on the American Avant Garde:

ENTR'ACT (1924) 20 min. by Rene Claire
MENILMONTANT (1929) 35 min. by Dimitri Kirsanoff
LES MYSTERES DU CHATEAU DU DE (1929) 17 min. by Man Ray
H_2O (1929) 14 min. by Ralph Steiner

Ruth Weiss photo: Ingelborg Gerdes

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

THE BRINK

POET/FILMMAKER RUTH WEISS IN PERSON

This evening's program will feature the revival of THE BRINK (1961) by S.F. poet Ruth Weiss featuring camera by Paul Beattie, music by Bill S Spenser, Starring Sutter Marin & Lori Lawyer; plus poetry readings by Miss Weiss & Sutter Marin. When THE BRINK first premiered at Canyon Cinema in 1962 it prompted Stan Brakhage to write in a letter to Jonas Mekas:... "one of the most ambitious "first" films I've ever seen, attempting to pitch the actors into situations preordained by Ruth Weiss' poetry yet leave them free of the context, unaware of the poetic narrative intended, to develop synthesis of poetry and image highly structured but containing a residue of very real immediate, almost haiku, feeling..."

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Zdravic/Burn Council

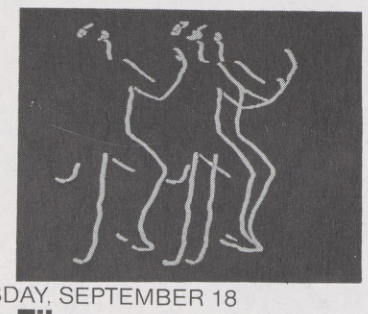
Healing Burns, Life after Burns

PHENIX (1975) 15 min. by Andrej Zdravic, Yugoslav filmmaker now living in S.F. shows his father, Franjo Zdravic, performing plastic surgery on burn victims. The skill of the surgeon is matched scene for scene by the skill of the filmmaker in his lyrical treatment of difficult subject matter.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU KID 53 min. produced by the Burn Council intimately documents the past four year's life of Rob Cole who was seven when he was severly burned over 3/4 of his body. With sensitivity and humor the film portrays Rob's adjustments as well as those of his mother, Maggie. Their lives are revealed through candid scenes of intimate conversations at home, at school, in the hospital and in public.

"This film is so powerful that the images will imprint a lesson about burns and surviving burns that you will always remember." Andrew Casper, S.F. Fire Chief

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Open Screening
Bring Your Own



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Dance Films

DORIS CHASE IN PERSON

"There is a strong graphic element in the work of Doris Chase. It seems in part to be an extension of her interests as a painter and sculptor, but the nature of video tends to put a graphic stamp of its own on the artist's work. ...Chase uses the video synthesizer to create mobile forms which will later be mixed with other images derived from the live dance performances.... instead of trying to present or document, as most dance films do, she interprets through abstractions and effects the sense of movement and rhythm and therby makes the dancer's space the viewers space." - Andy Bobrow

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Cinematheque 20th Anniversary

Short Films from the 60's

Yes, we are now 20 years old. Since the late 40's many film societies & independent showcases have come & gone. The Cinematheque, begun as Canyon Cinema in Bruce Baillie's backyard, has come a long way to become one of the most highly regarded showcases of independent personal and avant garde films in the country. To celebrate this occasion we are going to present 23 programs representing the history of independent cinema in America & Europe. To kick off this event we are presenting two programs of short films which highlight the sixties & seventies at Canyon Cinema & the Cinematheque.

Tonight's program of 60's highlights will include the following films:

FREE-FORM (1968) 4:30 min. by Michael Stewart
MOTHLIGHT (1963) 4 min. by Stan Brakhage
BREAKAWAY (1966) 5 min. by Bruce Conner
GEORGE DUMPSON'S PLACE (1965) 8 min. by Ed Emshwiller
GYMNOPEDIES (6 min.) by Larry Jordan
DOGGIE DINER & RETURN OF DOGGIE DINER (1969) 7 min. by Lenny Lipton
ALL MY LIFE (1966) 3 min. by Bruce Baillie
CASSIS (1966) 4:30 min. by Jonas Mekas
HOT LEATHERETTE (1967) 5:30 min. by Robert Nelson
PIECE MANDALA/END WAR (1966) 5 min. by Paul Sharits
UNSERE AFRIKAREISE (1966) 12:30 min. by Peter Kubelka
HOLD ME WHILE I'M NAKED (1966) 15 min. by George Kuchar
KUSTOM KAR KOMMANDOS (1965) 3:30 min by Kenneth Anger
SCHMEERGUNZ (1967) 15 min. by Gunvor Nelson

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Cinematheque 20th Anniversary

Short Films from the 70's

Tonight's program of highlights from the 70's will include:

GULLS & BUOYS (1972) 7:30 min. by Robert Breer
HIGH KUKUS (1973) 3 min. by James Broughton
WATER CIRCLE (1975) 3 min. by James Broughton
DIVINE MIRACLE (1973) 5:30 min. by Daina Crummins
GOSPEL PLOW (1970) 10 min. by Don Lloyd
GLYPHS II (1979) 10 min. by Joel Singer
FLORENCE (1975) 7 min. by Peter Hutton
PAUSE (1978) 12 min. by Peter Kubelka
CHINAMOON (1975) by Barbara Linkevitch
GUACAMOLE 10 min. by Chick Strand
A VISIT TO INDIANA (1978) 4 min. by Curt McDowell
BIRD (1978) 4 min. by Stan Brakhage

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

CONFIDENTIAL, recent films

JOE GIBBONS IN PERSON

Joe Gibbons, who is probably our most prolific avant garde super-8 filmmaker, returns to the Cinematheque with his recently completed CONFIDENTIAL plus a few things he made especially for this evening's show. Of a recent screening in New York Jim Hoberman has written in the Village Voice:

"In CONFIDENTIAL REPORT, five unedited super-8 rolls which Gibbons claimed to have created especially for this New York screening (and then had to be coaxed to show), the dissipated but deadpan filmmaker nervously addresses the camera, attempting to decipher his need for an audience. Gibbon's timing is flawless: whenever he warms up to his subject, the camera runs out of film. On every roll he changes location, moving from his living room out to the front stoop and then to an alleyway where his neighbors won't be able to see him. (With true paranoid luck, one, of course, does.) In the last roll the filmmaker reexamines an earlier sequence and criticizes his 'self consciousness.' Underground to the core, Gibbons projects his camera originals so that the health of his films seems as tenuous as his own - here's hoping they live to return another day."

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

THE DANCING SOUL OF THE WALKING PEOPLE

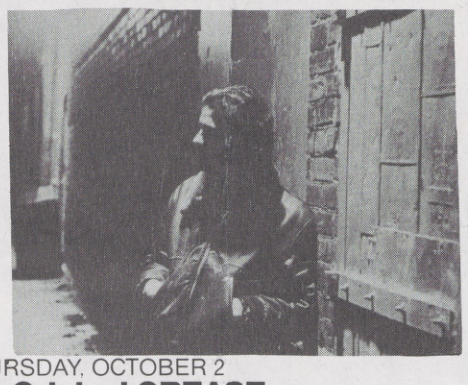
PAULA GLADSTONE IN PERSON

Bay Area filmmaker/poet/painter returned to the place where she was born and raised to make this ambitious, hour-long "documentary" - a journey through three seasons of changing light, population and movement in Coney Island.... Gladstone focuses on the area under the boardwalk, where bars of light passing through the slats and onto the sand, filmed against the receding perspective of the boardwalk, suggest a netherworld, an infinity. The walking people move into the light and disappear; a child throws sand into the rays in a quiet trance; a body builder works alone in the snow.

"The film's added soundtrack- including the music of Alice Coltrane, Duke Ellington and Anthony Braxton, as well as Gladstone's own gritty, very immediate and sexual poems - while on one level painstakingly integrated, remains on another a separate structure effectively heightening the eerily silent images.

"...The success of THE DANCING SOUL OF THE WALKING PEOPLE is that, intensly personal and artistic as it is, it remains a vital and unique documentary of a place."

from Gladstone's THE DANCING SOUL OF THE WALKING PEOPLE SOUL OF THE WALKING PEOPLE



from Chuck Hudina's GREASE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

The Original GREASE

CHUCK HUDINA IN PERSON

This is the second one-man show at the Cinematheque for Chuck Hudina, a midwesterner recently moved to S.F., since he premiered HOWIE two years ago. When GREASE showed at the New York Film Exposition in 1975 Owen Shapiro wrote: "GREASE by Chuck Hudina is reminiscent of Cassevetes' SHADOWS, not in concept but in spirit. The film deals with greasers that seem to recall the 1950's. GREASE resonates between fiction and documentary, the result of which is compelling drama. The acting is superb as is the cinematography, which suggests, via strong lights and darks, an underworld peopled by characters in animalistic ambience."

In addition to GREASE (1974) 47 min. Hudina will show:

ICARUS (1974) 2 min.
EGG (1980) 2 min.
PLASTER (1975) 4 min.
SOUND STILLS (1975) 7 min.
BICYCLE (1975) 7 min.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
Open Screening
Bring Your Own

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Cinematheque 20th Anniversary

The Films of Ron Rice

Ron Rice died in Mexico just over 15 years ago leaving behind a rough cut version of THE QUEEN OF SHEBA MEETS THE ATOM MAN which was later recut by Howard Everngam who followed closely the notes Rice left behind. Rice also left the following note:

"This is a wild man rough cut like no Hollywood director would dare show the public for fear of having his ideas stolen. We defy anyone to cop our style. This is only 70 minutes of a protracted 3 hour epic by the director of THE FLOWER THIEF. This is your opportunity to help challenge the Hollywood stranglehold on morals, expression, and art and what have you. Dig us."

Starring Winifred Bryan, Taylor Mead, Jack Smith

Our program will include the following films:

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA MEETS THE ATOM MAN (1963) 70 min.
SENSLESS (1962) 28 min.
CHUMLUM (1964) 28 min.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Films from Holland

DANIEL SINGELENBERG IN PERSON

Daniel Singelenberg is a Dutch filmmaker whose films have shown here in the past. Our program will include the following films:

LIQUIDITY PREFERENCE (197) 20 min. - The lonesome odyssey of a young man through consumer's society.
ANOTHER SHOT (1973) 5 min. - self protrait
DANCING BOY (1976) 6 min. - Japanese dancer Shusaku
LOVER (1978) 10 min. - Portrait of Tom Chomont
A BIT STRANGE (1978) 25 min. portrait of the Dutch author Simon Carmiggelt. & others

from THE NOCTURNAL IMMACULATION by George Kuchar

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

The Noctural Immaculation

GEORGE KUCHAR IN PERSON

Four new films will premiere. Two were made by me at "home" and the other two were made at the San Francisco Art Institute with my film students.

THE NOCTURNAL IMMACULATION (1980) 20 min. -The push and pull between the flesh and the spirit dominates this movie and becomes a rather nasty battle as two men and two women confront their shadows. These shadows become more black and prominent when the "light" that's supposed to guide them intensifies.

AQUEERIUS (1980) 7 min. - Washes of water and other liquids soak the imagery...strung together for a rather enigmatic yet definite statement on something. Only the subconcious knows for sure.

ONE NIGHT A WEEK (1980) 25 min. - A visually corrupted story of a nice wholsome family with a warmhearted message in the "Grandma knows best" tradition. Long sections of out-dated dialogue which was written for the radio in the 1940's is given a cinematic overhaul with trashy results. A lurid revival of something from another time and another medium.

OCHOKPUQ (1980) 15 min. - Some consider it the worst film made in my productionclass. The segments were written by the students and the dialogue comes from their guts. It looks as if the color did too. - GK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

THE FOURTH WALL & other films

PETER GIDAL IN PERSON

Peter Gidal is an American filmmaker, film theorist, writer, and teacher who lives in London. Since moving there in the mid-sixties he has become the primary force behind Brisish structural-materialist filmmaking. He also has over 20 films in distribution. His films have been shown here many times in the past but this event marks his first visit to the Cinematheque. Our program will include the following films:

4th WALL (1978) 45 min.
UNTITLED (1978) 8 min.
EPILOGUE (1978) 8 min.
SILENT PARTNER (1977) 35 min.

Roger & David in N.Y.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

HOW TO BE A HOMOSEXUAL

ROGER JACOBY IN PERSON

Arising from Warhol style narrative & Brakhage lyricism along with a very sophisticated use of photo/alchemical color processing Roger Jacoby has conquered a very large area of contemporary film territory. Ever since his earlier films which featured "Pope" Ondine Jacoby has developed a body of work of Truly "major" importance. "...They are objects of exquisite and subtle beauty: they bathe the eye as they probe the psyche. They are not always easy films but for anyone willing to look, the rewards are great." - Bill Judson Field of Vision

Our program will feature the premieres of two recent films:

HOW TO BE A HOMOSEXUAL (70 min.)
TWO PORTRAITS (25 min.)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

POOR RICHARD'S INDEX

GARY ADKINS IN PERSON

Gary Adkins is a young filmmaker from Chicago who is returning to the Bay Area with a batch of new films completed since his last visit here four years ago. Of his work Stan Brakhage has written:

"Thought process is Film's best-foot-forward, because the motion picture mechanism does graph movement...Though it graphs it along a line of 'stills". The natural tension between Films "stills"---or chunks-of-means---and Movie's Meaning is, to my mind, best exemplified in Gary Adkins' CANTS FROM NATURAL HISTORY WORKS. The film is essentially a meditation on Scenes as Signs, then, as Continuities of the Seen. Adkins masterfully restricts all sense of seeing, in this film, to these past tensions of memory-recall: thus the visual echo-chamber which his film seems, to me, to be. Every image is prompted of/by and is prompt to/for the words of Borges: therefore we have, here, a movie of a human being reading in absolute sync with what is/being read." Our program will include the following films:

CU/CU: FOUR LETTERS (1978) 8 min.
POOR RICHARD'S INDEX (1980) 55 min.
EUCALYPTUS (1978) 7 min.
CURTAILMENTS (1979) 5 min.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Cinematheque 20th Anniversary

Early Brakhage

The Cinematheque presents the first of five Brakhage programs as part of our 20th Anniversary Celebration. Needless to say Brakhage has become the most influential filmmaker of his generation and five shows doesn't begin to do him justice. This program covers the period from his early psychodramas through the transition to his familiar "visual" style.

FLESH OF MORNING (1956) 25 min.
SIRIUS REMEMBERED (1959) 12 min.
THIGH LINE LYRE TRIANGULAR (1961) 9 min.
THE DEAD (1960) 11 min.
PRELUDE: DOG STAR MAN (1961) 25 min.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

IN CELEBRATION OF MY CHILDREN

ROSALIND SCHNEIDER IN PERSON

New York Filmmaker Rosalind Schneider was an accomplished painter and sculptor before turning to the art of filmmaking. Since 1970 she has had one woman shows in such places as the Whitney & the Hirshorn. Her speaking engagements have included Rekjavik, Iceland, New York State Women's Conference as well as museums, galleries and universities throughout the U.S. on "Film as Art".

"... An effective example of how the inherent nature of film is incorporated into the significant form of the work of art. Film communication is explored and film language is extended so that our visual vocabulary is enriched immeasurably.... The viewer is drawn into a world of interwoven dreams, a world of metaphors ...." - Arlene Gross, The Feminist Bulletin

Our program will include the following films:

PARALLAX (1973) 21 min.
ANDREA ACTING OUT 14 min.
THE JEFF FILM 10 min.
TULIP (1973) 5 min.
EARTH SAGA (1980) (premiere)

This program is supported in part by grants from the San Francisco Hotel Tax fund, the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal Agency.

To receive our posters in the mail, send your name, address and zip code to: Cinematheque mailing list/Foundation for Art in Cinema/339 Head st./ San Francisco, CA 94132